Land Use/Management Policy for Agriculture

2454. **SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether government have formulated any land use/land management policy for agriculture;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) what is the present land use pattern in agriculture and measures proposed to be taken for optimum land use pattern and for sustainable land management and within what time frame; and

(d) what would be the specific benefits which will accrue to the farmers and the country as a whole on achievement of optimum land use?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) National Land Use Policy Outline (NLPO) have been approved by the National Land Use and Waste-lands Development Council (NLWC) functioning under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister in February, 1986 (copy enclosed) (see below). NLPO has been circulated among all the States/Union Teritorries and concerned Central Ministries/Departments/Organisations for its implementation.

(c) and (d) Out of the total geographical area of 329 million ha., net sown area is about 143 million ha. For improving the land condition, soil health and for restoration of ecological balances, various land based conservation—cum-production scheme have been in operation namely National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA), Soil Conservation in the catchments of River Valley Projects (RVP) and Flood Prone Rivers (FPR). Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA), Reclamation of Alkali Soils (Usar land) and Externally Aided Projects. The benefits to farmers and the country as a whole will accrue in terms of additional food production, employment generation, improvement in socio-economic conditions etc.

Statement

19 Point National Land use Policy Outlines

1. Land Use Boards at the State level should be revitalised. Wherever they do not exist, they must be created.
2. Land Use Policy must be evolved by all users of land within Government jointly and must be enforced on the basis of both legislation for enforcing land use as well as their promotional and preserving methods.
3. Urban Policy must be restructured so as to ensure that highly productive land is not taken away. Town Planning should be provided for green belts.
4. A national campaign should be launched for educating the farmers and Government Departments all out the need to conform to an integrated land use policy.
5. Cropping pattern should be reviewed specially in drought prone/desert areas, so that maximum advantage is taken of improved soil and water management practices.
6. Land and soil surveys should be completed and inventory of land resources should be prepared in each State so that resources allocation is based on a reliable data base.
7. Heavy penalties should be imposed against those who interfere with land resources and its productivity. It must be recognised that environmental protection cannot succeed unless this is done.

8. The problems of water logging, salinity and alkalinity must be brought under control by the use of appropriate technologies and by the adoption of proper water management practices.

9. The management of Command Areas should be reviewed, restructured and revitalised within a specified time so that water is used efficiently. Necessary investments for treating the catchments must be met to prevent the collapse of irrigation system due to premature silitation.

10. Technologies relating to dry farming, land shaping and water harvesting must be propagated and adopted in the interest of moisture conservation and optimal use.

11. Special programmes of conservation and afforestation in the desert areas and of reclamation and rehabilitation in the ravine areas must be launched with greater vigour in order to prevent wind and water erosion.

12. The practice of shifting cultivation should be controlled in order to protect valuable forests.

13. Tand Use Planning should be integrated with rural employment programmes in such a manner that loan and subsidies are given only for those productive activities which represent efficient land use.

14. Rights of tribals and poorer sections on common land should be protected through legal and administrative structures.

15. Stall feeding should be popularised, especially in such areas where grazing land is already degraded.

16. Special Fodder Development Programme in selective blocks should be launched together with a Livestock Development Programme. The aim should be to limit the Livestock population to economically productive stock.

17. Plantations for meeting commercial and industrial needs should preferably be located far away from the habitat.

18. The policy of supplying forest raw materials on subsidised basis to users other than the rural poor should be reviewed so that raw material is supplied at the prevailing market price, with view to induce such users to go in for massive afforestation programmes, so also to motivate small and marginal farmers to grow forest based raw material for industry at remunerative prices.

19. The use of a alternative packaging material, such as corrugated card boards, plastic bags, etc. instead of wooden packaging, must be explored and encouraged.

Cancellation of Licences of Foreign Vessels

2455. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to cancel all the permits/licences for deep sea fishing issed to foreign vessels as well as not to renew or extend existing licences and not to grant any new licences in view of the recommendations of the Murari Committee constituted by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries; and

(b) whether the operation of these vessels in our seas has resulted in decrease of fish catches, depletion of commercially important species of fish and enhanced poverty of fishing communities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Based on the decisions taken on the recommendations of the Committee to Review Deep Sea